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USSR

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RE-ISSUE

A QUESTION OF VISAS FOR "THE PAIR" (1944)

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

No: 1102, 1103.

2 Aug. 44

[Two-part message complete]

[Part I] To VIKTOR. [i]

MAKSIM^[ii] has asked (us)[a] to pass on the following:

"The PAIR[CHETA]^[iii]

1. BASS[BAS]^[iv] is sending simultaneously a telegram addressed to "Railway Worker[ZHELEZNODOROZHNIK]^[v] WEST[VEST] that the COUNTRYSIDE[DEREVNSKI]^[vi] [1 group unrecovered]

[46 groups unrecoverable]

filled in what was known to him, indicating that in general this was not important because when the PAIR applied to the Embassy in SMYRNA[SMYRNA]^[vii], they would bring all the necessary information. We consider inadmissible [3 groups unrecovered] and, most important of all, we also consider that inquiries about visas for the COUNTRYSIDE[DEREVNYA]^[viii] and transit visas should be made by the PAIR from "KAZAN'" because it is known here that we do not allow foreigners into SMYRNA on such business. It is necessary on the basis of BASS's telegram to "mail" the PAIR's passports to the Embassy of the COUNTRYSIDE for receipt of a visa with the request that they be sent to the Embassy of the COUNTRY[STRANA]^[ix] in SMYRNA

Distribution

[Continued overleaf]

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(merely to gain the desired time) to obtain transit visas. Simultaneously from "KAZAN" send a telegram to the Embassy of the COUNTRY with a request to issue transit visas for the passports they will receive from the Embassy of the COUNTRY-SIDE. The PAIR [2 groups unrecovered] their return address and are sending a reply paid telegram saying that they have been notified by their relation BASS that they have got visas for the COUNTRYSIDE and that they have to apply for a transit visa to the Embassy of the COUNTRY.

Part II] The latter will obviously ask the PAIR either to say why they need to come to SMYRNA or to give all necessary particulars[D%].

[51 groups unrecoverable]

Embassy of the COUNTRY in SMYRNA immediately to telegraph verbatim [1 group unrecovered].

Should complications arise the PAIR are to telegraph BASS and you me so that measures can be taken and fresh pressure brought to bear. According to BASS's information there should be no complications.

4. For your information we advise how the business of getting a visa for the COUNTRY was [O% managed]. To begin with NILES[NAJLS][x] refused to intervene in the case, explaining that he had only recently interceded for one refugee and recommended approaching Congressman KLEINS[KLJNS]. The latter did not [6 groups unrecovered] and it was only then that NILES intervened. The affair was held up because of the Party Convention and was actually settled in the last six days. All documents, telegrams [and][a] vouchers for the money orders, the parcel and the deposit were received by BASS today in an envelope of the TEMPLE[KHRAM][xi] [8 groups unrecovered] from the BANK[xii]. The business [1 group unrecovered] extremely sound and there is every chance [of success][a]. The BANK then [O% asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs[MID] of the COUNTRYSIDE about [9 groups unrecovered]."

No. 611

MAY[MAJ][xiii]

Note: [a] Inserted by the translator.

Comments: [i] VIKTOR : Lt. Gen. P.M. FITIN.
[ii] MAKSIM : Vassilij Mikhajlovich ZUBILIN, 2nd Secretary at the Soviet Embassy in WASHINGTON.
[iii] THE PAIR: Nicholas and Maria FISHER.
[iv] BASS : Michael BURD.
[v] RAILWAY WORKER: It is not clear whether this is a cover-name or a reference to his occupation.
[vi] COUNTRYSIDE: Mexican. The adjectival form is used here.
[vii] SMYRNA : MOSCOW.
[viii] COUNTRYSIDE: MEXICO.
[ix] COUNTRY: U.S.A.
[x] NILES : David K NILES was Administrative Assistant to the President.
[xi] TEMPLE : Presumably the White House. Compare NEW YORK's No. 1840 of 29 December 1944 (S/NBF/TL78)
[xii] BANK : U.S. Department of State.
[xiii] MAY : Stepan Zakharovich APRESYAN, Soviet Vice Consul in NEW YORK.

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